

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the applications:

I claim:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved strap tensioner comprising:

a. a rigid base with a front flange member and a rear flange member;

~~e~~ b. an intermediate member pivotally connected to said rigid base, said intermediate member including a lower first cam surface;

~~b~~ c. a tension lever longitudinally aligned and pivotally mounted to said intermediate member, located over said rear flange member, said tension lever including a lower clamping flange;

d. means for pivotally connecting said tension lever to said intermediate member so that said first cam surface is disposed above said lower clamping flange on said tension lever;

e. means for biasing said tension lever and said intermediate member in opposite directions;

f. a means for biasing said intermediate member in a rearward direction on said rigid member;

g. a means for coupling the movement of said tension lever and said intermediate member so that when said tension lever is rotated ~~in a predetermined amount~~ distance in a forward direction, said intermediated member is engaged and begins to rotate in a forward direction;

1 f. a brake lever pivotally connected to said rigid base, said brake lever including
2 a second cam surface that presses against a strap extended longitudinally ~~on~~ onto said rigid
3 base to prevent movement of said strap when extended through said rigid base and disposed
4 under said first cam surface; and,

5 g. a biasing means connected to said brake lever to forcible press said second
6 cam surface against a strap extended longitudinally over said rigid base and under said first
7 cam surface.

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9 2. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 1, wherein said rigid
10 base includes two longitudinally aligned side walls, a transversely aligned front flange
11 member, a transversely aligned rear flange member, a transversely aligned upper strut and a
12 transversely aligned rear strut.

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14 3. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 2, wherein said
15 intermediate member includes two upper ear members located opposite said first cam surface,
16 each said upper ear member including a transversely aligned bore formed therein.

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18 4. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 3, further including a
19 pin disposed transversely between said side ~~wall~~ walls on said rigid base used to pivotally
20 attached said intermediate member and said tension lever to said rigid base.

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22 5. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 4, wherein said means
23 for biasing said intermediate member in a rearward direction on said rigid base is spring

1 disposed over said pin ~~that~~ said spring presses against said intermediate member and said
2 upper strut on said rigid base to ~~biasing~~ force said intermediate member in a rearward
3 direction on said rigid ~~member~~ base.

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5 6. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 5, wherein said tension
6 lever includes a central opening that enables a strap to extend through said rigid ~~member~~
7 base.

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9 7. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 1, wherein said means for pivotally
10 connecting said tension lever to said intermediate member is a transversely align pin.

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12 8. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 7, further include a
13 spring disposed around said pin to bias said tension lever and intermediate member in
14 opposite directions over said rigid ~~member~~ base.

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16 9. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 8, wherein said tension
17 lever includes two nesting surfaces that engage the ear members on said intermediate member
18 when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in rearward direction over said rigid ~~member~~
19 base.

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21 10. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 1, wherein said brake lever includes
22 means for engaging said tension lever when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in a
23 forward direction over said rigid member thereby forcing said brake lever forward when said

1 tension lever is rotated in a forward direction a sufficient distance.

2 11. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 4, wherein said brake lever includes

3 means for engaging said tension lever when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in a

4 forward direction over said rigid member thereby forcing said brake lever forward when said

5 tension lever is rotated in a forward direction a sufficient distance.

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7 12. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 10, wherein said brake lever includes

8 means for engaging said tension lever when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in a

9 forward direction over said rigid member thereby forcing said brake lever forward when said

10 tension lever is rotated in a forward direction a sufficient distance.

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12 13. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 10, wherein said brake lever includes

13 means for engaging said tension lever when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in a

14 forward direction over said rigid member thereby forcing said brake lever forward when said

15 tension lever is rotated in a forward direction a sufficient distance.

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17 14. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 1, wherein said brake lever includes

18 two ears located at one end, each ear include a bore and being separated by a central space.

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20 15. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 12, wherein said biasing means

21 connected to said brake lever to forcible press said second cam surface against a strap

22 extended longitudinally over said rigid base and under said first cam surface is a spring

23 disposed over a transversely aligned pin and located inside said central space.

1 16. (Currently Amended) An improved strap tensioner comprising:

2 a. a rigid base that includes two side walls and transversely aligned front flange
3 member, a transversely aligned rear flange member, a transversely aligned upper strut and a
4 transversely aligned rear strut.;

5 b. a tension lever longitudinally aligned located over said rear flange member,
6 said tension lever including a lower clamping flange that extends downward and under a
7 strap when disposed longitudinally over said front flange member and rear flange members,
8 said tension lever includes a central opening that enables a strap to extend through said rigid
9 member;

10 c. an intermediate member pivotally connected to said rigid base and located
11 adjacent to said upper strut, said intermediate member including a lower first cam surface that
12 extends downward to engage a longitudinally aligned strap disposed inside said rigid base
13 and between said side walls;

14 d. a transversely aligned pin disposed between said tension lever and said
15 intermediate member to pivotally connect said tension lever and said intermediate member
16 together;

17 e. means for biasing said tension lever and said intermediate member in opposite
18 directions;

19 f. a means for biasing said intermediate member in a rearward direction on said
20 rigid member;

21 g. a means for coupling the movement of said tension lever and said intermediate
22 member so that when said tension lever is rotated in predetermined amount in a forward
23 direction, said intermediated member is engaged and begins to rotate in a forward direction;

1 h. a brake lever pivotally connected to said rigid base, said brake lever including
2 a second cam surface that presses against a strap extended longitudinally on said rigid base to
3 prevent movement of said strap when extended through said rigid base and disposed under
4 said first cam surface; and,

5 i. a biasing means connected to said brake lever to forcible press said second
6 cam surface against a strap extended longitudinally over said rigid base and under said first
7 cam surface.

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9 17. (Original) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 16, wherein said intermediate member
10 includes two upper ear members located opposite said first cam surface, each said upper ear
11 including a transversely aligned bore formed therein.

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13 18. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim ~~16~~ 17, wherein said
14 tension lever includes two nesting surfaces that engage ~~the~~ said ear members on said
15 intermediate member when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in rearward direction over
16 said rigid ~~member~~ base.

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18 19. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim ~~17~~ 18, means for
19 biasing said tension lever and said intermediate member is a spring disposed over a pin used
20 to connect said tension lever and said intermediate members together ~~wherein said tension~~
21 ~~lever includes two nesting surfaces that engage the ear members on said intermediate member~~
22 ~~when said tension lever is sufficiently rotated in rearward direction over said rigid member.~~

1 20. (Currently Amended) The strap tensioner as recited in Claim 16, wherein said brake
2 lever includes means for engaging said tension lever when said tension lever is sufficiently
3 rotated in a forward direction over said rigid ~~member~~ base thereby forcing said brake lever
4 forward when said tension lever is rotated in a forward direction a sufficient distance.
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